



SR0757

LRB099 13166 GRL 37058 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to
3 learn of the death of Betsy W. Stockard-Odeneal of Decatur, who
4 passed away on June 28, 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, Betsy Stockard-Odeneal was born on June 13, 1946
6 in Bloomington; her parents were James C. and Edna Lewis; and

7 WHEREAS, Betsy Stockard-Odeneal was employed as a
8 substance abuse counselor at the Wells Center for 7 years; and

9 WHEREAS, Betsy Stockard-Odeneal was a longtime member of
10 the North Jasper Street Church of Christ; and

11 WHEREAS, Betsy Stockard-Odeneal was well known in the
12 Decatur community and was one of the civic leaders of the city;
13 she was the first African-American woman to be elected to the
14 Decatur City Council; she also initiated the "Stop the Violence
15 Marches" and began Central Illinois' first violence gang
16 prevention agency, The Youth Empowerment Agency, in 1993; and

17 WHEREAS, Betsy Stockard-Odeneal was preceded in death by
18 her parents; her husband, Michael; 2 sons, John and Gregory
19 Howard; 4 sisters, Bertha Hansen, Beatrice Steward, Mae Helen
20 Gant, and Betty Jean Taylor; and a brother, Sammy Lewis; and

1 WHEREAS, Betsy Stockard-Odeneal is survived by 4 sons,
2 Rodney Howard, Melvin (friend, Tracy Dickerson) Reed, Jamison
3 (Katrina) Ambrose, Mark Ambrose; a daughter, Tamara Howard; a
4 sister, Pauline (Charles) Maudin; 11 grandchildren; 3
5 great-grandchildren; her special loved ones, Cynthia Brown,
6 Gloria Smith, and Libby James; and her many nieces, nephews,
7 other relatives, church family, and friends; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with her
10 family and friends, mourn the passing of Betsy W.
11 Stockard-Odeneal; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Betsy Stockard-Odeneal as an
14 expression of our sympathy.